

Charity number: 1087910

**GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF
NICEA**

UNAUDITED

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA

Charity Reg 1087910

FINANCIAL STATEMENT and TRUSTEES' REPORT yr to 31.12.2020

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GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA

Charity Reg 1087910

FINANCIAL STATEMENT and TRUSTEES' REPORT yr to 31.12.2020

Structure, governance and management

Board of Trustees

Nicholas Moore (President)
Aleks Stojanovic (Vice-President)
Banayiodis Vanezi (Secretary)
Veronica Davies (Assistant Secretary)
Adrian Pavel (Treasurer)
Patricia Jean Morris
William Morris
Dr Florin Gaina
Eleni Maoudis
Fodoulla Nicolaou
Dana-Mihaela Moldovan
Dr David Lewis

Clergy

<i>Priest</i>	Ieratikos Proestaminos Stephen Maxfield
<i>Assistant Priest</i>	Fr Timothy Pearce
<i>Deacon</i>	Fr Dcn Panteleimon Maxfield

Readers

Aidan Hart
David Lewis
Banayiodis Vanezi
Vasillios Vanezi
John Tierney
Edmund Maxfield

Servers

There are 14 men and boys rostered to serve at the altar.

Lay workers

Presbytera Catherine Maxfield (Philoptochos)
Eleni Maoudis (Philoptochos)
Rachel Allum (Sacristan)
David Lewis (Chanter)
Veronica Davies (Librarian and Bookstall)
David Lewis, Elizabeth Morris (ground staff)
Philippa Humphreys (children's ministries)
Dana-Mihaela Moldovan (children's ministries)

Governance

The board of Trustees is newly appointed every two years, 8 members being elected by members of the community and 4 being appointed by His Eminence, Archbishop Nikitas of Thyateira and Great Britain who is our *ex officio* Chairman. Fr Stephen Maxfield and Fr Dcn Panteleimon Maxfield are *ex officio* members. The officials of the board are elected by the board members.

The board has authority over the day-to-day running of the community, and is responsible for our Risk Management and Protection Policies including Child Protection, Photography Policy and Health and Safety. The Board cooperates closely with the clergy and with our sister charity, the Shrewsbury Orthodox Church Appeal Foundation (Charity no 1166735) which manages the funds for our capital projects.

Liturgical matters are the responsibility of the priest, answerable to the Archbishop.

Administrative details

Charity no	1087910
Reg address	9, Hexham Way, Shrewsbury, SY2 6QX, Tel 01743 247619
Website	www.shrewsburyorthodox.com
Contact details	Fr Stephen Maxfield, Fox Cottage, Albrighton, Shrewsbury SY4 3AG Tel 01939 291078 Email info@shrewsburyorthodox.com
Insurer	Congregational
Accountants	WR Partners, Belmont House, Shrewsbury Business Park Shrewsbury SY2 6LG
Bank	Lloyds, 1 Pride Hill, Shrewsbury SY1 1DG
Architect	Donald Insall Associates, 30, Harborne Rd., Birmingham B15 3AA

Objectives and Activities

Since the founding of our community in 1986 and our registration as a charity in 2001, we have grown and matured hugely as a diverse and thriving community. In addition to our British members, there are Greeks, Russians, Romanians, Bulgarians, folk of North African descent and Chinese. Mutual respect and acceptance has flowed naturally from our shared Orthodox faith and worship.

We have fulfilled a need as a welcoming community for visitors and settling immigrants to the UK. From time to time in the past we have been able to cooperate with the Greek Consulate in Birmingham.

Our community is growing steadily. In addition to those from Orthodox Countries or their descendants living in the locality, British people are now showing more and more interest in Orthodoxy and there is a steady stream of new members.

Our church building (built between the 9th and 12th centuries and Grade II* listed) has some rare 14th century wall paintings, and a large wall painting on the east wall behind the altar, modern (2012) but of traditional iconographic design. To these during 2020 we made plans to add 'roundels' depicting saints chosen by members of our community. This project is being funded entirely by an appeal to our members. Further progress was delayed by Lockdown.

Liturgical review

Services held through the year

Like all places of public worship, we had to close our doors to the public for many months during 2020. Worship continued without a break, however, (as permitted by the Archbishop) with just the Priest, the Deacon, and the Chanter and were broadcast to Youtube and Mixlr, and was a great comfort to those confined to their homes during this period. On average our broadcasts were accessed by 60 devices each Sunday. After the end of Lockdown, over a period of 21 weeks to the end of 2020, the Sunday attendances ranged from 9 to 83 with an average of 41.

We adhered to the normal timetable of services, according to the rules of the Greek Orthodox Church, i.e. (as a minimum) Vespers on Saturday evenings, Matins and the Liturgy on Sunday mornings and the Liturgy on the mornings of some Saints' Days during the week, with additional services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

The music in church

Only a single chanter was permitted to undertake the singing during the pandemic. This has forced us to review our arrangements and look at the problem of training new, younger chanters. The complexity of Orthodox ritual and the vast corpus of liturgical texts and the unfamiliar Byzantine chants that go with them pose a problem for those coming to Orthodoxy from other traditions late in life, but are no difficulty for Greeks or Romanians with musical ability. This is an area that will require planning and resources in the future.

Liturgical and pastoral support elsewhere

In addition to our Church of the Holy Fathers of Nicea in Shrewsbury, we support 'daughter' parishes in Lampeter, cared for by Fr Timothy Pearce, and Leominster, where Fr Stephen Maxfield serves the Liturgy from time to time. Also, the Liturgy is served monthly in the Serbian Orthodox Church of St Nicholas in Telford. These activities effectively give us a wide catchment area for Orthodox Christians.

Educational activities

Using Zoom for adult teaching sessions during Lockdown revealed an interest from a wide geographical area, so Zoom remains now the method of choice for one of the two sessions that take place each week. A bookstall and a library provide further resources.

We have a close relationship with the Thyateira Midlands Ecclesiastical Seminary in Walsall, where monthly all-day sessions are held and a variety of courses are run. During Lockdown this activity was conducted by Zoom

Our children's club, the Varangians, named after the Byzantine Emperor's bodyguard, kept functioning during Lockdown through the imaginative use of social media. Special

children's events included a festival for St Nicholas, and a global zoom session dramatically captured the international nature of the Orthodox Church. Out of Lockdown, our Sunday School and Greek School were able to function normally.

We also provide financial support and practical help for the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain's annual children's summer camp which takes place nearby in a field in Shropshire.

Outreach

Our Philoptochos ('Lovers of the Poor') team was able to do much practical work. Early in the year this group did a huge amount of work, both financial and practical, in connection with the homelessness caused by the floods in Shrewsbury. During Lockdown, a 'Holy Fathers' Whatsapp group kept people connected and positive who would otherwise have experienced real loneliness.

After Lockdown, the Philoptochos continued their more routine work such as helping with individual cases of hardship, welcoming newcomers to our community, and hospital visiting.

Our website, www.shrewsburyorthodox.com, developed over the past few years to a high standard, now carries all our news, articles, calendar, 'who we are', 'how to contact us', how to donate etc.

Future plans

As an expanding church community with only the church building, we urgently need facilities for meetings, social gatherings and for teaching adults and children, and the church itself needs extending, being far too small for the size of congregations we are getting with the steady increase of membership. (Over the past several years we have used a marquee as a church extension for the thronging crowds that attend at Easter.)

Taken all together, this is an expensive, long-term project. During 2020 we reached the stage of acquiring a strip of land next to the church to serve as a car park and amenity space, and transferred the title of the church to our sister charity, the Shrewsbury Orthodox Church Appeal Foundation (Charity no 1166735) in order to streamline future capital transactions.

Treasurer's Report

Overview

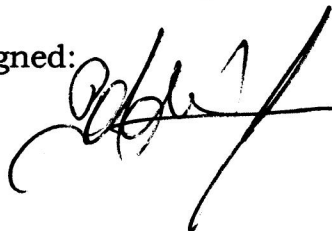
Our financial functions are now divided between our Board of Trustees, which manage the day-to-day running of the community, and our sister charity, the Shrewsbury Orthodox Church Appeal Foundation (Charity no 1166735) which manages funds for our capital projects.

During 2020, the pandemic lockdown precluded special fundraising events, but our income was sustained through the increased use of on-line giving, an increase in standing orders and gift-aid covenanting, the streamlining of our membership renewals, and the use of Paypal. In spite of the pandemic, or perhaps because of it, our finances are now more secure and predictable.

Financial risk management policies

The Board of Trustees is kept aware of the financial situation by receiving a Treasurer's report routinely at its monthly meetings. We aim to keep funds in hand equal to 3 months' unrestricted expenses.

signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Adrian Pavel', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Adrian Pavel, Trustee and Treasurer to the Board.

date:

24. 12. 2021

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 5 to 8.

This report is made solely to the charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Tim Lunt BA FCCA MIRPM

WR Partners
Chartered Accountants
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Dated: 28/06/2021

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Receipts

	2020		2019
	Unrestricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Donations, legacies and grants			
Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals	-	-	223
Collections & Donations	11,690	11,690	17,212
Candles	613	613	2,501
Special collections	614	614	600
Donations & Members' subscriptions	12,369	12,369	10,446
Fundraising events		-	3,199
Book Stall	557	557	1,490
Charitable activity	3,005	3,005	-
Tax Reclaimed	-	-	14,766
TOTAL RECEIPTS	28,849	28,849	50,438

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

<u>Payments</u>	2020			2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Church activities				
Priest's fees	21,784	-	21,784	28,873
Votive candles	395	-	395	700
Liturgical supplies	90	-	90	60
Telford Church rent	400	-	400	400
Repairs and Maintenance	607	-	607	3,102
Electricity	924	-	924	1,009
Insurance	1,207	-	1,207	1,140
Grants and donations paid				
Charitable Donations	763	-	763	1,505
Diocese and Patriarch	100	-	100	142
Archdiocesan Central Fund	122	-	122	1,000
Subscriptions	25	-	25	115
Varangians & Youth	15	-	15	339
SOCOF Land Purchase grant	-	-	-	83,000
Charitable activity	2,767	-	2,767	-
Administrative costs				
General, printing, postage & static	3,789	-	3,789	2,951
Independent Examiner fee	1,194	-	1,194	876
Bookstall	473	-	473	923
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	34,655	-	34,655	126,136
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(5,806)	-	(5,806)	(75,698)
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD	37,477		37,477	113,175
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	31,671	-	31,671	37,477

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA

STATEMENT OF ASSETS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		2020		2019
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Monetary Asset				
Bank and cash held	31,671	-	31,671	37,477
Assets retained for own use:				
Church Building (valuation)	223,000	-	223,000	223,000

Signed on behalf of all the Trustees by:



Trustee: Adrian Pavel

Date: 25.6.2021

ANALYSIS OF FUNDS

	Balance as at 01-Jan-20	Receipts	Payments	Balance as at 31-Dec-20
GENERAL FUNDS				
General - cash	37,477	28,849	34,655	31,671
General - other	223,000	-	-	223,000
	<u>260,477</u>	<u>28,849</u>	<u>34,655</u>	<u>254,671</u>

**GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF THE 318 HOLY FATHERS OF NICEA
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Notes

Related Party Transactions

During 2020 there were no related party transactions.

During 2019 the charity paid £83,000 to Shrewsbury Orthodox Church Appeal Foundation (SOCAF), a registered charity, number 1166735, in respect of funding the purchase of land adjacent to the church and the extending of the church by adding a Narthex.

Mr Nicholas Moore, President of the charity, is also Chairman of SOCAF.

Dr David Lewis and Aleksander Stojanovic are trustees of both the charities.

Yiannoulla Vanezi, a trustee of the charity, is a close family relation to Ban Vanezi, trustee of SOCAF.